



SYNODUS EPISCOPORUM

Vatican, 7 September 2021

Prot. N. 210243

Your Eminence / You Excellency

In a few weeks the Holy Father will inaugurate, at St. Peter's, the synodal process and then, the next Sunday, every Diocesan Bishop – having convened the people of God entrusted to him – will start this journey. For this first phase of the Synod, the Holy Father has approved the enclosed *Preparatory Document*.

As we have highlighted in the *Preparatory Document*: “the purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but ‘to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.’”

Preparatory Document

The *Preparatory Document* is being sent in PDF in Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German. Translations of this *Preparatory Document* into other languages will also be available at the website of the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops (www.synod.va) which is dedicated to this synodal process. Also at this website it will be possible to find this *Document* in four formats:

1. A paginated version ready to be printed
2. A “desktop” version paginated to be printed for personal use
3. A paginated version for the visually impaired
4. An audio version to enable the participation of the blind.

In the event that the language used in your country is not among those included on the website, this General Secretariat will send the “graphic packet” (packet Indesign) so that you can make the paginated versions in your language. To request this packet, write to media@synod.va

Vademecum – Handbook for Listening and Discernment in Local Churches

The English version of the *Vademecum* is being sent to you. Soon, on the website of the Synod, the text will be available in other languages.

Logo

The logo for the synodal process will also be available at our website, in various languages and in various formats suitable for the translation of the logo in your language, in the case that your language has not already been included on our list. I remind you that the use of this logo is regulated by our Manual Brand, also available on our website.

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The attached documents are under embargo until 11:30 a.m. (Rome time) today.

I have very much appreciated the fact that some Bishops have taken the pastoral initiative to invite the people of God to support this synodal process with prayer. I recommend that this prayer be reinforced and that you **distribute this *Preparatory Document* to your people for a fruitful ecclesial discernment.**

Mario Card. GRECH

General Secretary